

WARSHIPS READY TO FIGHT IF NEEDED

Hurry Orders Were Anticipated by the Navy Yard Authorities.

Vessels Nearly All Prepared to Sail at Twenty-four Hours' Notice.

Work Hastened So That the Fleet May Rendezvous by the First of the Year.

TEXAS SAID TO BE ALL RIGHT.

A Report That She Was Leaking Denied. More Men Needed for the Katakadin—Painting and Polishing Up.

It may reassure Americans who have been losing sleep because of the fear that Uncle Sam's navy was laid up in a hospital to know that nearly all the vessels at the Brooklyn yard have doffed hospital clothes for fighting garb, and would be ready at twenty-four hours' notice to go into action. Hurry orders were received from Washington yesterday, but they had been anticipated. Naval Constructor Bowles, without saying anything about it, has been hurrying for two weeks. The orders from Washington stated that all the vessels of the North Atlantic squadron must be ready to rendezvous at Hampton Roads by January 1.

The crack cruiser New York sailed to the Tompkinsville rendezvous yesterday morning and began taking on a supply of coal and ammunition. On Monday morning the New York and Maine will leave for Hampton Roads. The unfortunate battle ship Texas will probably be at the yard two weeks more, but if there was fighting to do she could, it is claimed, sail out to vindicate herself by Wednesday morning. It was reported yesterday that the ship was another leak, but naval officials denied this. The Texas, they declared, is now in good condition for fighting and could be sent away as soon as stores and coal could be put on board. It is probable, however, that in case there is no emergency her bulkheads will be stiffened. A plan for doing this has been prepared and submitted to the authorities. If they say to go ahead it will take two weeks to complete the work. Then, it is claimed, the Texas will be as stable as the big State she was named for.

Waiting to Be Cleaned.
The coast defender Puritan is ready to get away as soon as the order is issued. She is at the yard for a shaking down. That is the way the Jack tars explain that they are putting stores aboard and getting everything in trim for a voyage. The turret of the Puritan were tried yesterday and the mechanism worked perfectly. Everything was done as if in battle, except that the guns were not fired. The cruisers Montgomery and Marblehead are simply waiting to be docked for cleaning and painting. They could fight just as well, however, without paint, and they are needed. They will get away in an hour. If no emergency arises they will be docked about Christmas, and sail in time to celebrate New Year's in Southern waters.

The old training ship Essex will be put in dry dock next week, and that she may be changed to a spardeck vessel. She will be overhauled and more room will be made for the crew. They are trained aboard her. She would be no use in war, but would be valuable for the training of sailors. The monitor De Kalb is waiting to be docked to have her bottom scraped and painted. She has been fitted out with a turret which works by compressed air. Some of the naval officers are anxious to have the system tried in battle, and it is said that the Terror will be one of the first to get away in case of trouble. The protected cruiser Atlanta is generally supposed to be entirely out of it so far as going into service soon is concerned, but she would play the part of joker if trouble occurred. She was sent to the yard to get new engines, and has been making made in her hull. Her masts were removed, but there was a halt called in the work of dismantling, and she is now lying at the dock apparently helpless. If it were necessary, however, she would be ready to fight in condition in a week. Should there be no reason for hurrying, she will be at the yard for several months, possibly a year.

More Men Needed.
The ram Katakadin is ready to sail, but is minus a crew. After the Brooklyn and Puritan were manned there were only twelve left on the receiving ship. These twelve have been sent to the Katakadin and Uncle Sam is now looking for enough gallant sailors to make up the complement. The torpedo boat Ericsson, which was shortened fifteen feet last summer, was brought to the yard last Tuesday from Red Hook, where the work was done. Quarters are now being fitted up for the men and there is to be a torpedo work mounted on the forward deck. The work is being pushed rapidly, and will be finished in about two weeks. In a rush she could be ready for service in a week.

The Massachusetts and Columbia are also the yard, but could leave any day. The commerce destroyer Columbia, which can make twenty-four knots an hour, will be put in dry dock and painted. There are no repairs to be made on her. The Massachusetts is too broad to be docked here. She will go to Boston in a few days to be presented with a figure of a spread eagle and minute man. She will then join the fleet at Hampton Roads.

The Chicago is the only vessel at the yard that could not be made ready for service in a few days. She is being practically rebuilt, and when she gets her new engines will be a thirteen-knot vessel, instead of a sixteen and one-half knot one. Ordinarily she will be ready for war in ten days. But in case war was declared she could be finished in three months.

"NO SURRENDER," SAYS PALMA.

Replies to Canovas that the Insurgents Will Only Agree to the Independence of the Island.

Editor New York Journal:

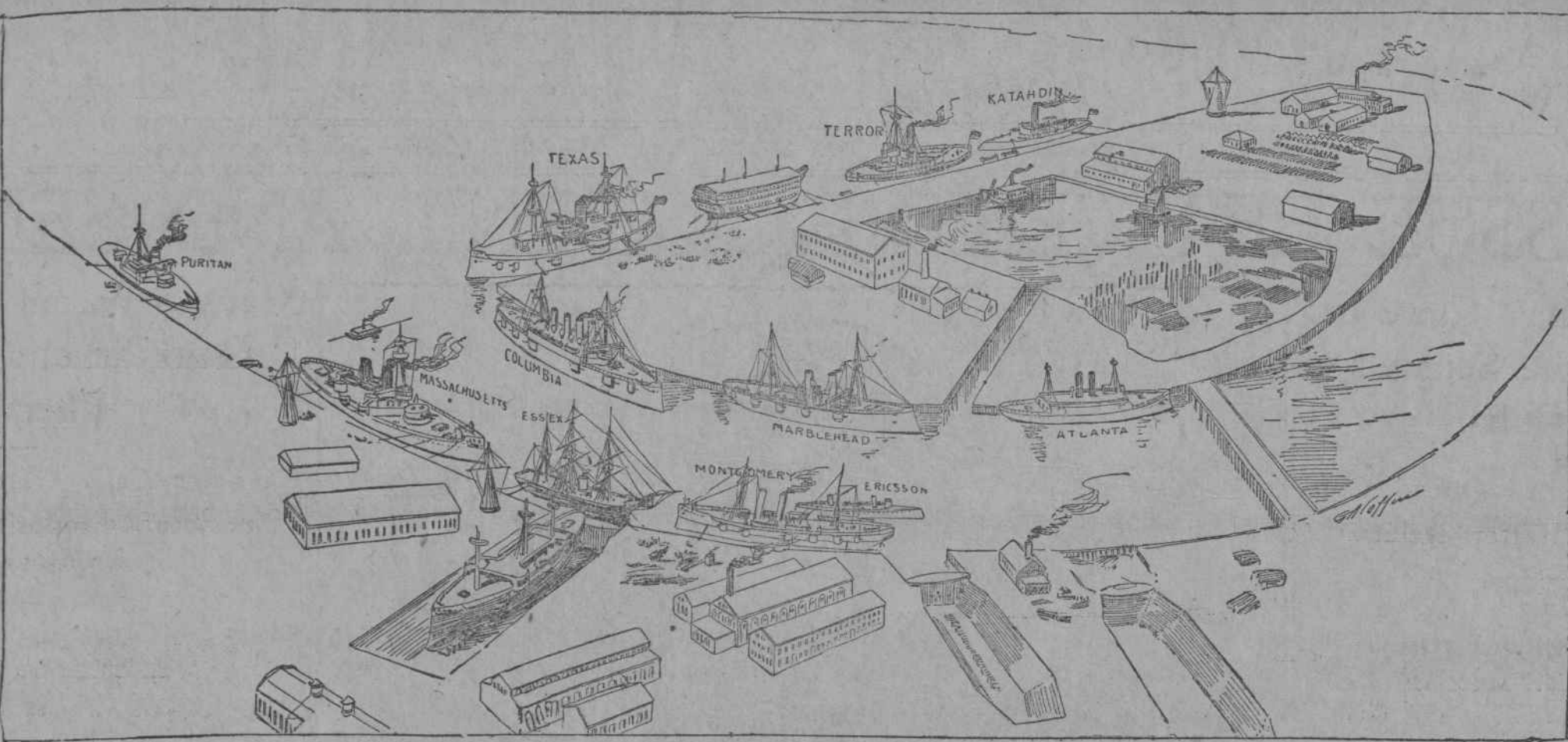
I read the Journal's interview with Minister del Castillo with much interest, and I wish to congratulate the paper on its enterprise.

Canovas, however, may say what he pleases, but the Cubans have taken arms for the sole purpose of ending the Spanish rule of tyranny, and no person knows this better than he. I wish to declare most emphatically that they will not enter into any agreement with Spain unless it be for the independence of the island.

In fact, we have already practically gained our point. The Cubans have a government, and 40,000 armed men in the field obey the decrees of this government. It is highly ridiculous to hear from the lips of the Prime Minister of Spain that the negroes compose the greater part of the insurgent forces.

This statement can be disproved in no better way than to point to the Spanish prisons in Cuba and the Spanish penal prisons in Africa, which are filled with Cubans of the richest and most influential families. Among them are many doctors and lawyers, and the men who constitute the insurgent forces are the same as those now imprisoned.

TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA,
Delegate to the Cuban Junta



VIEW OF THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD SHOWING THE WAR SHIPS AT ANCHOR THERE.

HOUSE MEMBERS CAUTIOUS.

Continued from First Page.

entirely by the facts as I find them and shall, to the extent of my power, assist in protecting American interests and American honor.

REPRESENTATIVE COUSINS, OF IOWA—In view of the fact that our committee will probably be called upon to consider the resolution, I don't think it would be proper for me to discuss Secretary Olney's interview. That and the fact that I have not formed a conclusion on the subject make it, to my mind, my best course not to say anything on the subject. It will probably be some time before the House committee will have to deal with the matter, and it would be awkward to act contrary to a rash opinion expressed now. I don't think there will be any haste in the matter. Last session I think we would have acted more quickly than now. I am satisfied there will be no action without careful consideration.

Favors the Cameron Resolution.
CONGRESSMAN SMITH, OF MICHIGAN—I favor the adoption of the Cameron resolution and do not believe it will necessarily result in a war with Spain. The second clause of the resolution tends to show that we are not looking for trouble, but, of course, if Spain insists on continuing butchering Cubans and takes our resolution as an insult, it will mean war. Last year I favored acknowledging the Cubans as belligerents and now affairs have reached such a state that I believe the United States should take immediate action.

REPRESENTATIVE QUIGG, OF NEW YORK—As to the Cameron resolution, I think it is dangerous and mistaken. It is not justified by the facts and I do not believe that it will pass either the Senate or the House. It well illustrates the wisdom of attempting, on the part of the House, to conduct foreign affairs. Mr. Olney's statement to the press seems to me in all ways admirable. I observe that some Senators say that he should be impeached for his disrespect to Congress; but what do they think of Senators who, appointed by law as a court of impeachment, say in advance that they propose to convict? The impeachment talk, of course, is silly. Mr. Olney has stated with precision the relations of Congress to an act acknowledging sovereignty. It takes two houses and the President acting together to change the name of a post office from Squeetunket to Squeetunket. Surely it takes no less a power to change the status of nations.

MADRID IS INDIGNANT.

Press and People Violently Resent the Action on Senator Cameron's Resolution.

By Don Fernando Rodriguez.
Madrid, Dec. 19.—The entire press of Madrid violently censures the attitude of the United States and the action of the Foreign Relations Committee on Senator Cameron's resolution, but unites in urging the people to restrain their indignation, a caution which is probably needed.

El Dia points out the necessity for the adoption by the Spanish Government of most energetic measures to forestall future inevitable conflicts. The Epoca hopes that the next series of victories by the troops in Cuba will modify the tendencies of the "Xenophobic Senators," but El Correo continues to blame General Weyler's inaction, pointing out that nothing practical is being done in the island.

GENERAL LEE HURRIES BACK TO WASHINGTON.

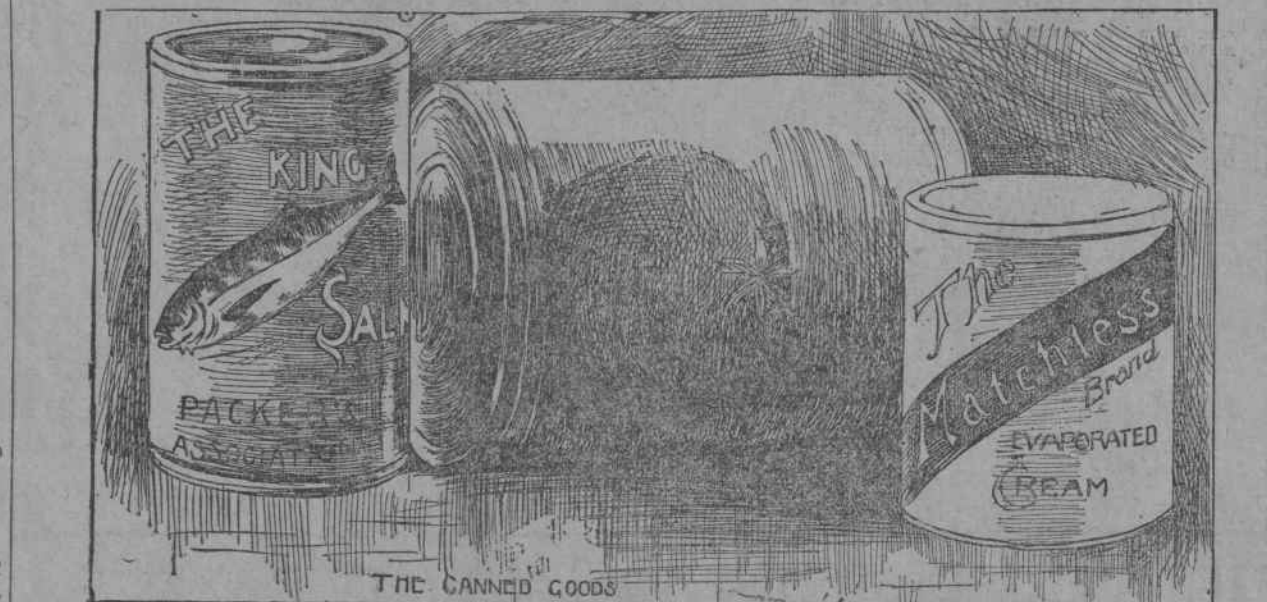
Thought to Have Been Recalled by the President or Secretary Olney.

Was to Have Sailed for Havana Yesterday on the Saratoga, but Instead Took a Midnight Train South.

Maintains Secrecy as to the Cause of His Sudden Change of Plan, but Intimates He May Later Go to Cuba from Some Florida Port—The Situation in Washington.

General Fitzhugh Lee, Consul-General to Cuba, who was booked as a passenger for Havana on the Ward liner, Saratoga, Washington on the Pennsylvania special

CANNED GOODS THAT POISONED A WHOLE FAMILY IN BROOKLYN.



An Evening Meal at the Bulgers, Which Nearly Proved Fatal to All Who Ate.

Mrs. Annie Bulger and her three daughters, who were poisoned by eating canned goods Friday night, were much improved yesterday.

The Bulgers—the family consists of Thomas Bulger, his wife, Annie; the three daughters, Katie, aged eight; Mamie, five, and Nellie, three, and Mr. Bulger's mother—reside at No. 417 Baltic street, Brooklyn. Friday evening Mrs. Bulger purchased a can of salmon, a can of condensed milk and a can of tomatoes from the grocery store of J. Helman, corner of Bond and Baltic streets.

The salmon and tomatoes were served at supper, and all ate heartily of both. Before the meal was finished Mr. Bulger said he felt a burning in his stomach.

The feeling passed off after a little while, and nothing more was thought of it. When the supper dishes were finished Mrs. Bulger put the children to bed.

Half an hour later Katie, the eldest of the three, called to her mother that she was ill. She complained of being sick at the stomach and was in great pain. The child grew worse, and finally fell to the floor in convulsions. The other two children were soon seized in the same way, and Mrs. Bulger herself, while trying to attend to them, was also taken ill.

Seemed to Be Dying.
Katie, who was in a worse condition than the others, rolled on the floor, and seemed about to die with every convulsion. The other children were very ill. The family was in this state when Dr. Stern, of the Long Island Hospital, arrived. At a glance the surgeon saw that he had to deal with a case of ptomaine poisoning, and gave the usual antidotes. Before he left the house the medicine had caused a turn for the better. The doctor gave it as his opinion that

some of the canned goods was the cause of the trouble. The remnant of the food, with what remained in the cans, was taken away by the police to have an analysis made should the cases prove fatal.

Mr. Bulger's mother, who ate of the goods, was not taken ill. Mrs. Bulger said yesterday that the family had partaken of nothing at supper to have caused the trouble, unless it was the goods bought in this.

Grocer Helman, who sold the goods to the Bulgers, was anxious for the fullest investigation.

"The goods were as fine as any in the market," he said. "We are always particular about canned goods. The salmon is put up in California, and is one of the standard brands on the market. The tomatoes were put up in Baltimore, and are from a firm which would not can a tomato that was not perfect. The condensed milk is the finest."

How to Tell Damaged Foods.
While no recognized firm knowing the dangers of canning food unfit for use would do so, frequently faulty canning may cause food to become poisonous. In such cases the can itself gives evidence that the material inside is unfit for use in one of two ways. The can is either bulged out or indented.

The contents of an indented can may not be unfit for use, as the can may have been indented by accident and the tin not pierced or sprung so that air has reached the goods inside. Its contents, however, should be inspected carefully before eating.

When a can is bulged the contents should not be used, as the condition of the tin shows that air has reached the inside and decomposition has set in, which has caused gases to be generated. The gases thus formed have forced the tin to bulge. Bulged cans and indented cans are returnable to most wholesale dealers.

CAUTION! "THE BULGED CAN"—Every genuine Bulger's has the name "Bulger's" stamped upon it. Beware of cheap imitations. Sold at all grocery stores. Advt.

at 12:15 o'clock last night.

It was said that the action of the Senate committee in recommending the recognition of the independence of Cuba and the excitement and complications necessarily following resulted in the recalling of General Lee to a special conference with Secretary Olney at Washington.

Whether he will continue from Washington overland to Tampa or some other point on the Florida coast, after his conference with the representatives of the Administration, or whether he will remain over for a few days and testify before the Senate Committee, could not be learned from General Lee himself or any member of his family. He simply denied himself to all visitors at the Marlborough Hotel yesterday.

Busy with Telegrams.
Messages passed back and forth between his apartments and the Western Union telegraph office continuously. There was no question but that the General was in communication with the authorities in Washington, and the fact of his not sailing on the Saratoga was believed to be due to instructions received from Washington.

General Lee left the Marlborough at 11 o'clock last night. He was accompanied by his wife and Miss Lee. They took a carriage that had been previously ordered and drove at once to the Desbrosses street ferry of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The General refused to answer any questions touching on the reason of his recall to Washington, or even admit that he had been recalled. He said he would probably sail for Havana from some point in Florida.

Senate Committee Wanted Lee.

Ever since he came to New York the Senate committee, being dissatisfied with the information Secretary Olney laid before it, has been anxious to have General Lee recalled. It is known that General Lee takes the very opposite view from that held by the Secretary of State. He is in deep sympathy with the cause of the Cubans. It is even thought possible that President Cleveland himself has sent for Mr. Lee, in order to secure a more complete understanding of the exact situation in Cuba.

Consul-General Lee came to New York from Washington on Wednesday night. It was his intention to sail for Havana on the Ward line, as he came up over this route and is especially friendly with the managers of the company, the consulate of Havana being in the same building with the Cuban agency of the Ward line. Special preparations had been made for the comfort of himself and family, and he announced that he would have sailed on Wednesday had it not been for the big storm that prevailed at the time. He called at the office of the Ward line yesterday and the steamer was held at the pier for some time after the hour announced for sailing at the request of General Lee.

Any way, it is certain that it was the General's intention to sail from this port, and the fact that his whole programme has been changed is the result of the startling changes that have occurred in regard to the relations of the United States to Cuba.

Situation on Wednesday Last.
Consul-General Lee was called before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations last Wednesday. It was supposed that when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday General Lee had sailed for Havana. Mr. Morgan, who made a motion during Tuesday afternoon demanding all the Cuban correspondence, was of that impression. To the great surprise of every one it was learned Tuesday night that General Lee had not departed, but would arrive in Washington the next day. It was then concluded by the committee to have the Consul appear and state verbally the nature of the matters he had laid before the President.

What the General told the committee on Wednesday was not made known in its entirety. The impression on the outside was general to the effect that he withheld certain facts which he made known to President Cleveland.

CANOVAS'S PLAN DISAPPROVED.

Continued from First Page.

laration that if we recognize "the Republic of Cuba" Spanish honor will demand war.

No Faith in Promises.
REPRESENTATIVE QUIGG, OF NEW YORK—Premier Canovas's declaration is important as showing that the Spanish Government does not want to quarrel with the United States. Its assurance of autonomy to Cuba I put no faith in. Its description of our interests is wholly mistaken. We have everything to lose and nothing to gain by the continuation of Spanish government in Cuba, but it does not follow that we should assume the task of freeing Cuba by making war on Spain.

Looks Like a Bluff.
REPRESENTATIVE SMITH, OF MICHIGAN—Minister Canovas's statement is simply a repetition of a threat unofficially made by the Spanish some time ago. It is tantamount to a declaration that war will follow the acknowledgment of the belligerency of Cuba, but I don't believe it will. It looks like a bluff to us, and a bluff at fair play for the benefit of Europe.

SENATOR FRYE—I have been chiefly impressed to-day by the enterprise of the Journal in securing from Premier Canovas the statement of the attitude of his government toward Cuba and its intention to grant Cuba home rule as soon as the insurgents have been thoroughly licked. My own impression is that Spain will do nothing of the sort. It is not generally understood in this country that there is a wide difference between the Spanish Government and the Spanish people. The regency does not rest upon any too solid a foundation, and is swayed entirely in its course by popular sentiment. The Spanish people hate all Americans and Cubans with an intensity of feeling that cannot be understood over here. For this reason Canovas is weak and willing to make promises of any kind in order to placate the feeling in this country and state off, if possible, any action by the United States, as he realizes that the recognition of the independence of Cuba by this country would result in an outbreak by the passion-ridden people of Spain that would leave the Government only two alternatives—to declare war against this country or be overthrown.

Canovas does not desire war with this country, nor do any of the regency, but would select that alternative in preference to having the wrath of the Spanish people, whose methods of expressing displeasure are too deadly to be counted. On the other hand, the same causes would operate to prevent Canovas keeping his promises to Cuba. The wrath of the Spanish people against the Cubans in case of Spanish victory would force forth in such fashion as to prevent absolutely any concessions by the Spanish Government. For this reason I do

"The Wide World," "Pillow-Box" and "Prisoner of Zenda" new games.

not believe that the Spanish Government would keep these promises made by Canovas. Furthermore, I do not believe the Cubans will cease fighting short of absolute victory or utter defeat, and in either case the granting of the privilege of local self rule would be left out of the discussion. Cuba free would have self rule accompanied by forces of arms; Cuba vanquished would be denied home rule as heretofore.

A Dignified Statement.
SENATOR JOHN W. DANIEL, OF VIRGINIA—The address of Canovas is a dignified and powerful statement of the Spanish side of the question. My sympathy is with the Cubans and with all people struggling for independence and liberty, but our course as a nation should be governed by our interests as a nation, and it is from this standpoint alone that those who shape the national action should take their reckoning.

Davis Says It Is Unreasonable.
SENATOR DAVIS, OF MINNESOTA—The cable published in the Journal this morning from Madrid, giving a statement from Canovas, is very interesting at this juncture. It is a strong dispatch and indicates that the Spanish Prime Minister is maintaining a firm position. It certainly does not breathe of peace. He has only broken his bridges and widened the gulf. He says that Spain will not, in any case, grant autonomy and will not consider the question of home rule until the Spanish arms have achieved success. By this reasoning Spain leaves it to herself to say when her military success has been accomplished and when the conditions are such that she will grant the promised reforms. The talk of negro domination indulged in by Canovas is absurd. The population of Cuba by the last census was 1,631,000, and of this 65 per cent is white. The idea of war of extermination under these circumstances cannot be tolerated and the fear of negro domination is ridiculous. In his statement Canovas further tells the United States that he does not want this Government to mediate until Spain is triumphant in the war. When that time comes there would be nothing left to mediate.

CAN HE DEFEY CONGRESS

Olney Holds the President Is Greater Than the Law-makers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—Secretary Olney has thrown a bombshell of so startling and radical a character that attention is diverted from the Cuban question to the still graver one of the exact status of this as a Constitutional question. In the statement published in another part of the paper which he furnished the press this afternoon Secretary Olney deliberately decides a grave constitutional question and declares that the Executive will absolutely ignore a mandate of Congress, even if passed by a two-thirds vote of each house.

It is now known that at the meeting between Secretary Olney and the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday, cold and formal politeness alone covered the stormy heat of opposition. The Secretary raged inwardly because the committee refused to accept his presentation of the position of the Administration. He gave no intimation then of his purpose to issue a defiance to Congress, and the inference is drawn that his extraordinary proclamation is issued after communicating with the President.

Since the position of the Administration is thus laid bare in advance of Congressional action it may be deemed wise by the Senate Committee to further modify the resolution to clearly bring it within legislative jurisdiction. For instance, a clause may be inserted instructing the Cabinet officers, navy and courts to recognize the flag of the Cuban Republic on any vessels which may fly it.

Made Votes for the Resolution.

If one thing is clearer than another it is that Secretary Olney's bold declaration has made votes for the Cameron resolution in both House and Senate, and has precipitated an inevitable contest between the executive and legislative branches of the Government. It is true that opinions both of to-day and in the nature of precedent are voluminous on both sides of the question raised. One of the clearest statements is found in the report made June 18, 1836, by Henry Clay, from the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in respect of the recommendation by the United States of the independence of Texas in which he said: "The recognition of Texas as an independent power may be made by the United States in various ways: First, by treaty; second, by the passage of a law regulating commercial intercourse between the two powers; third, by sending a diplomatic agent to Texas with the usual credentials, or, lastly, by the Executive receiving and accrediting a diplomatic representative from Texas, which would be a recognition as far as the Executive only is competent to make it. In the first and third modes the concurrence of the Senate in the executive character would be necessary. And in the second in its legislative character. "The Senate alone, without the co-operation of some other branch of the Government, is not competent to recognize the existence of any power. The President of the United States, by the Constitution, has the charge of their foreign intercourse. Regularly, he ought to take the initiative in the acknowledgment of the independence of any new power, but in this case he has not yet done it, for reasons which he, without doubt, deems sufficient. In any instance the President should be ready to be quick in the exercise of his power by the expression of the opinion, or by other acts, of one or both branches of Congress, as was done in relation to the republics formed out of Spanish America."

Might Lead to Hostilities.
A matter which is of interest at this moment is the effect which such a resolution will have upon the affairs between this country and Spain. It may, under the usual order of things and in view of the feeling of the Spanish people, lead to hostilities. State Department officials all along have maintained that any expression from Congress calculated to give the Cubans greater hope would arouse the war sentiment of Spain.

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